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*Copy to L. Miner
Turkish Desk
State 23 June*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

22 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Turkish Situation

1. Evidence on the power struggle in Turkey of recent weeks is still incomplete and contradictory, but so far as we can judge, the conflict has ranged the senior, conservative CNU generals (including Chief of State Gursel) against the more radical junior CNU members and most of the top military commanders. The latter faction apparently believes that the CNU, having taken on overall civilian authority, should leave the administration of military affairs to the active commanders. What began as a move by the senior group to replace the Turkish Air Force Chief -- possibly for sheer personal reasons -- soon developed into a broader struggle over the CNU's relations with the military establishment. This in turn appears to involve differences over future political developments.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

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2. The military commanders and the junior officers have evidently won out so far, though they have stopped short of removing Gursel or overturning the CNU. They have succeeded in forcing out conservative General Madanoglu, who had been commander of the Ankara military garrison and a leading spirit of the CNU. All factions involved in the struggle have taken considerable pains to emphasize their devotion to the democratic process and their determination to hold elections on schedule -- sometime before the end of October. However, the recent developments may result in postponement. There is reason to believe, that the junior CNU members are more authoritarian in their outlook and less inclined to risk a resumption of civil government. Additionally, the military and the junior CNU types are more disposed to press for stiff penalties, including execution of the principal defenders in the Yassiada trials, an action which might cause popular disturbances requiring military suppression. The Republican Peoples Party of Inonu has probably lost some ground as a result of these events, since its chief supporter in the CNU was General Madanoglu.

3. These signs of strains and tensions among Turkey's leaders appear at a time when a vital decision relating to the return of government to civilian hands must be taken. A new constitution is

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scheduled to be placed before the voters in a referendum in early July. While the fact that the referendum takes place is no guarantee that elections will be held in October, it is a necessary step toward them. If, however, the referendum is postponed, it will be an indication of a decision to prolong military rule. The coming weeks should, therefore, clarify the prospects of short time political developments in Turkey.

4. In the fields of foreign policy and economics, we see little if any change from what was stated in the Board's Memorandum to you of 31 May 1961. The Turks will remain anti-Soviet and pro-West -- although prolonged bickering or violent intra-service rivalry within the military would, of course, reduce the effectiveness of the Turkish armed forces. The regime will probably continue in the economic field to lay the groundwork for future advances and to avoid the uncoordinated spending which characterized the Menderes regime. The recent incidents have hardly affected the economy in any basic way, though the added uncertainties attendant on this will inhibit business activity -- already plagued by stagnation since the junta took over in 1960.

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5. A new estimate on Turkey is already scheduled for completion in the Fourth Quarter, in response to a White House Staff request which called for emphasis on assessing basic economic trends in Turkey.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES



SHERMAN KENT
Chairman

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

If you approve, I would like to send copy of the attached memo on Turkey, as well as copy of the earlier memo to you dated 31 May, to Robert G. Miner, Director of Office of Greek, Turkish and Iranian Affairs of State Dept., for his personal information.


Sherman Kent


22 June 1961
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
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